Dealership for rural areas in Assam

243. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of Government for setting up of kerosene, LPG and petrol pump outlets in various districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of places identified in rural areas of Assam for opening kerosene, LPG and petrol pumps agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Consequent upon the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism, Oil Marketing Companies are free to set up the dealerships for various petroleum products as per their commercial considerations.

Introduction of small cylinder

244. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 5 kg. domestic LPG cylinder has been introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steps are being taken to make available such LPG cylinders throughout the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have started the marketing of 5 kg. LPG cylinders in August, 2002 to meet the requirement of low income group customers particularly in rural, semi-urban and hilly areas of various States. Based on the response from these markets, Oil Marketing Companies are in the process of making available the 5 kg. cylinders in other markets in a phased manner.